

100 GOLD STREET  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

June 21, 1944

Mr. Amon Carter  
Ritz Carlton Hotel  
New York City

My dear Mr. Carter,

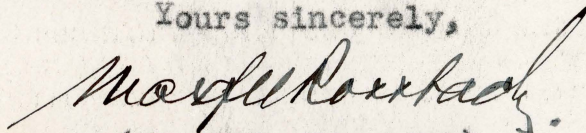
After our luncheon meeting with Larry Allen almost a week ago, I decided to take up matters with Mr. Richard F. Allen, Vice Chairman of the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington. I have to-day sent him a letter, a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

I am, of course, most anxious to learn the results of Larry Allen's visit to Washington, during which I sincerely hope that he may have been given an opportunity to talk to our Great White Father in person.

Incidentally, I just received to-day a postal card from Dick, dated May 10th, according to which he seems to be okay, though awfully anxious for "frequent long and newsy letters". I am mentioning this phrase of his as I presume that there is little else more apt to influence and strengthen their mental and emotional stamina and morale.

I remain,

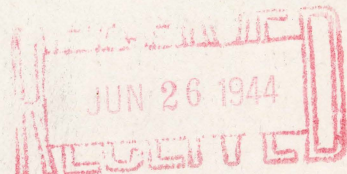
Yours sincerely,



(Max J.H. Rossbach)

MR/eb  
Encl.

cc: to Fort Worth, Texas



June 21, 1944

Mr. Richard F. Allen  
Vice-Chairman, American Red Cross  
National Headquarters  
Washington (13), D.C.

My dear Mr. Allen,

Referring to our correspondence around the end of last and early this year, and to my personal visit at your office in Washington at about that time, I have in the meantime occasionally received communications from my son, Captain Richard M. Rossbach, Prisoner of War #3108, interned at Oflag 64 (located in what was known as the Polish Corridor).

Reading between the lines, I had gained the distinct impression that the food situation at said Camp was most alarming. I deeply regret to say that my impression was more than confirmed during a short conversation which I have recently had with your namesake Mr. Larry Allen, the newspaper correspondent who, as you may know, returned a few weeks ago per SS "Gripsholm" to the USA and who, for many months, had been interned in the same Oflag 64.

My conversation with Mr. Allen merely amplified a short newspaper article (as per enclosed copy), which appeared in the daily press prior to his arrival here. Whilst when I had the pleasure of meeting you in Washington some six months ago or so, both you and I were apparently under the impression that the "Geneva Convention about Prisoners of War" was one of the few International agreements supposedly lived up to by the German government, it seems that the Nazi influence has made a travesty of these agreements. I am given to understand that the about 250 German military personnel attached to and in charge of Oflag 64 (which now houses about 520 American officers), are receiving more than three times the amount of food which the Nazis supply to our boys; in fact, it seems that, if it were not for the Red Cross Packages which, I understand, are being delivered regularly, our boys might actually face slow starvation.

Mr. Larry Allen, a highly respected and trustworthy newspaper correspondent and a gentleman, is, of course, in a better position than any one else to give to the Red Cross the best and the most up-to-date information about the food conditions at Oflag 64. As I understand it, he can be reached either c/o The Associated Press or else at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City.

May I take this opportunity of also quoting herewith for your personal information, from a delayed letter of my son, dated the middle of March, as follows:

"...the amount of misinformation at home is sickening. Parcels from home often contain soap, which we get each week. Over two hundred pair of eyeglasses have been ordered through the Red Cross for months. Meanwhile officers burn their eyes out while people at home are told not to ship eyeglasses. Such items as cakemix have been taken out of some parcels by US censors, while others arrive with it. Items of American uniforms shipped to the Red Cross have been reshipped to Prisoners of War of other nationalities before American needs are fully provided. Some American agency has apparently gotten out a brochure on this camp according to which it seems to be a Country Club; a prison camp can obviously be nothing more than a prison camp....."

Reverting to the food situation, you may perhaps recall that during our conversation in Washington I had mentioned to you the fact that my son, some years ago, had suffered from ulcers of the stomach, in view of this ailment and the tendency to it, I am, of course, particularly concerned and worried about my son's health, as the kind of food, supplied by the Nazis, is, of course, the worst imaginable for any one suffering from this particular condition.

Is there anything you can suggest which might relieve the conditions indicated above, both in general as well as in particular? Perhaps a much more frequent issuance of labels for "next-of-kin packages" might help. If you think well of this suggestion, I presume that it would be more effective if it be taken up by the Red Cross rather than by individuals.

I thank you in advance for the courtesy of an early response and, in the meantime, I have taken the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to both Mr. Larry Allen as well as to Mr. Amon Carter, whose son is also still interned at Oflag 64 and who was present during my recent interview with Mr. Larry Allen.

Yours very sincerely,

(Max J. H. Rossbach)

MR/eb  
Enclosure